

★THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL ★ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

★ THE BERLIN WALL ★

Background:

The East German government was concerned that its citizens were fleeing their homes in the communist controlled East to live in the democratic and more prosperous western section of Berlin. As a result, the Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961 to serve as a barrier separating both sides of the city.

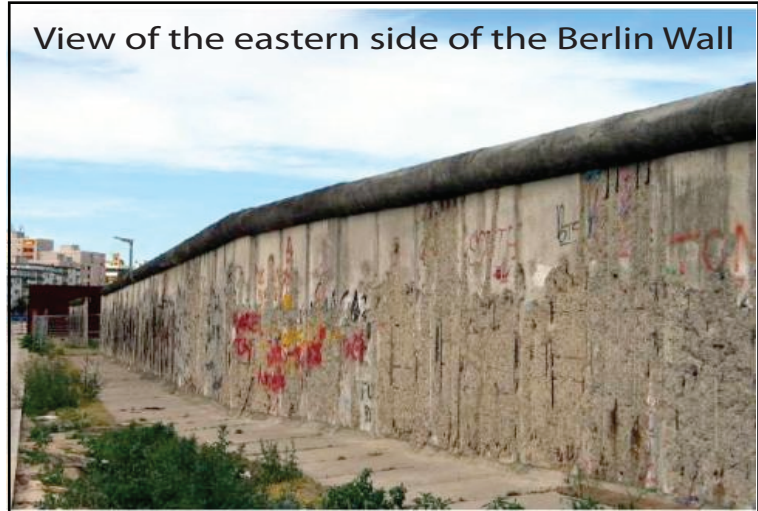
East and West Germans were not allowed to cross the borders into the other side of the city, and those trying to escape from East Germany to the West could be shot without warning.

Until the Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989, families were often kept apart from each other by the concrete wall, barbed wire, and guard posts.

View of the western side of the Berlin Wall



View of the eastern side of the Berlin Wall



Activity:

1. Describe what you see on the western side of the wall. What does the writing symbolize? _____

2. Describe what you see on the eastern side of the wall. How does this differ from the western side? _____

3. Why do you think the western side of the wall is more colorful than the eastern side of the wall? _____
